

Subway Construction Is Not Halted, Says Mr. Willcox, Service Commissioner

Reply Is Made to William S. Jackson's Inquiry Regarding "the Subway Muddle."

The Herald has received from William Schuyler Jackson, a lawyer, a letter, which is printed in another column, in which Mr. Jackson inquires: "Can you discover the real reason for the subway muddle? Is it because of incompetency and unfairness in public officials or in the Interborough management or in the public press?"

When the communication was shown yesterday to William R. Willcox, chairman of the Public Service Commission, he read it carefully and then said:

"Mr. Jackson's letter is a fair one, and it deserves a fair answer. So many confusing reports have been published that it is not strange that the public considers the whole subject of subways muddled. The muddle may not appear so hopeless as it seems, however, when two or three basic facts in the situation are noted carefully.

"In the first place, subway construction has not been halted. Along various sections of the thorough system, which includes the Broadway-Lexington avenue route, with the Fourth avenue connection in Brooklyn, the branch extensions in the Bronx and the Centre street loop, many contracts have been let and the work is advancing satisfactorily. To-day contracts are outstanding for more than \$50,000,000, which is more subway work under contract than ever before in the history of the city. All this must be an essential part of the future subway systems, entirely apart from the question whether the Interborough or the Brooklyn Rapid Transit or any other company is to build and operate any part or the whole of the new lines.

Calls Conferences Unofficial.

"Frequent reports of conferences with representatives of various corporations interested in the subway situation have tended to cloud the official status of the matter. All of these recent conferences have been informal and unofficial. It should not be forgotten that last June, after months of careful study of the entire situation, the Public Service Commission and the Conference Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, of which committee Mr. McAneny, Borough President of Manhattan, was the chairman, made a report, the recommendations of which were unanimous. It favored what seemed to be the best possible arrangement of territory between the two bidding companies—the Interborough and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit—under the terms of the Interborough agreement, which was adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by formal vote last June. Mayor Gordon, in his capacity as head of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, has since that time, therefore, the Interborough agreement, which was adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by formal vote last June. Mayor Gordon, in his capacity as head of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, has since that time, therefore, the Interborough agreement, which was adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by formal vote last June.

Favored Second Proposal.

"Soon afterward, as is well known, the Interborough company, after the actual letting of contracts for units of the thorough system had been begun, prepared and submitted a later proposal, which resulted in many protracted conferences throughout the midsummer days and nights between officers of the Interborough company, members of the Public Service Commission and representatives of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. and the Conference Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. After various modifications this plan, taken in conjunction with the original offer of the Brooklyn company, seemed to me and to a majority of the members of the commission to promise the best possible solution of the whole problem. Including the city's money, it made available for immediate subway construction and equipment almost \$200,000,000, of which more than half would have been private capital.

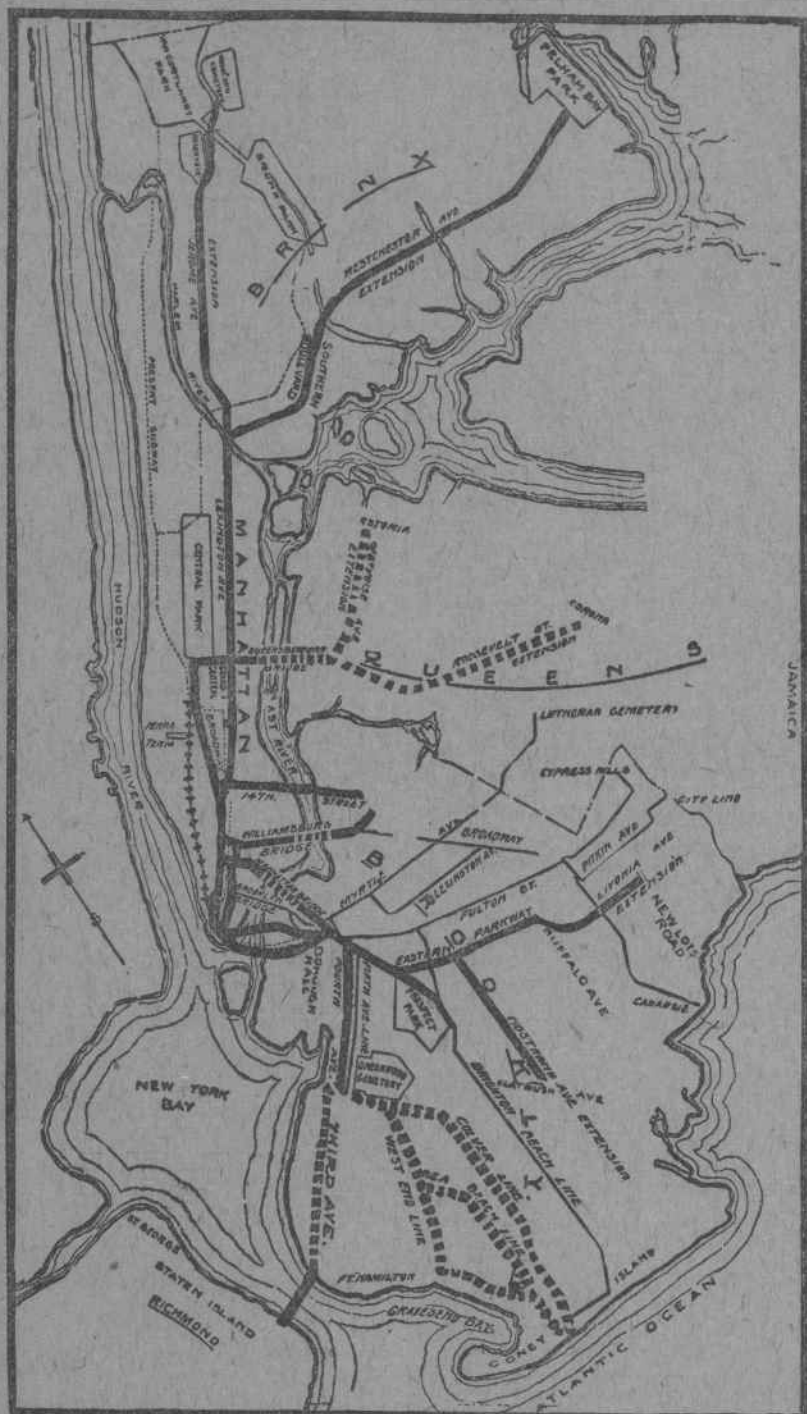
"It projected the Interborough's present investment, gave to the company the extensions it was most anxious to obtain, insured the completion and operation of the Manhattan 'H' and at the same time connected the Brooklyn company's Broadway entrance into Manhattan at the quiet point at which the Interborough balked—as well as permitting to stand the lines laid out for the B. R. T. to operate on the east side with its connections across the bridges into Manhattan and Queens.

"It also opened a way to provide for the third tracking and extensions of the Interborough's elevated lines, which we considered a factor of great importance, and also brought into use the Steinway tunnel as a part of the subway system. Had this second proposition of the Interborough company been adopted, I am convinced that it would have offered the best and most immediate solution of the whole rapid transit and subway problem, on the broadest and most comprehensive scale—a plan commensurate with the growth and future expansion of the whole city.

"I believed that this plan would commend itself to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and so did a majority of my colleagues in the Public Service Commission, as well as the Commission of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, who had conferred with us for nearly six months. It would have resulted, in my opinion, in a harmonious alliance between the city and the two big transit corporations for the development, equipment and operation of eighty-five miles of new rapid transit construction at a cost of more than \$200,000,000."

"Service Board Active."

"When the Interborough's renewed proposal was brought to a vote, however, on July 20 last, in the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, it was rejected by a vote of ten to six, the Controller, the President of the Board of Aldermen and Mr. Gresser voting with Mayor Gaynor against it, while the presidents of the boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Richmond voted in favor of the proposal.



NEW TRANSIT LINES OF THE B. R. T. AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE. — SHOWS PROPOSED SUBWAYS. --- SHOWS PROPOSED ELEVATED ROADS. SHOWS SEVENTH AVENUE ROUTE.

was not proposed that any change should be made so far as the Broadway and Fifty-ninth street lines were concerned, but that the general layout of the lines, as set forth in the report, to be operated by the two companies, should be fixed upon even now as planned by the conference.

"Whether these recent conferences will result in any change or not is a question which I am not in a position to discuss. In the meantime there has been no cessation on the part of the Public Service Commission in carrying out the plans as agreed upon and in getting subways under construction."

"When the Board of Estimate, after rejecting the Interborough's final ultimatum last July, voted to turn the whole system over to the Brooklyn company, in so far as the subway programs was concerned, Mayor Gaynor was vehemently opposed to such a course. He then threatened that

in such an event he would exercise his veto power in disapproval of the new routes laid out as part of the Brooklyn company's system. When the Board last October approved the Fifty-ninth street extension into Queens the Mayor refused to vote, on the ground that the action would have to come before him later for executive review.

"Lines of the system which have been finally approved and are beyond jeopardy from a possible Mayoral veto include the Lexington avenue line, the Broadway subway, the Canal and Nassau streets subways, the Centre street loop, the Fourth avenue subway and the proposed Bronx extensions. The lines not yet authorized and which the Mayor may refuse to endorse include the Fifty-ninth street line to the Queensboro Bridge, part of the proposed Fourteenth street line to Williamsburg, the South Brooklyn elevated extension and the Queens extension.

Dr. Villers Led College Class

Author of Herald's Sermon To-Day Has Had Distinguished Career as a Baptist Clergyman.

The Rev. Thomas Jefferson Villers, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church of Newark, N. J., whose sermon is published on the editorial page of to-day's Herald, was born in Virginia, and is a graduate of the University of Rochester and of the Rochester Theological Seminary.

At the close of his college course the faculty published the following statement: "The standings of this class have averaged higher than those of any previous class, and one of its members, T. J. Villers, has obtained the highest standing ever given a graduate of the university, being marked 9.98." His alma mater conferred upon him the degree of master of arts and later that of doctor of divinity.

While pastor of the First Baptist Church of Syracuse, N. Y., nearly five hundred new members were added in four and a half years. He was for eight years pastor of the First Church, Indianapolis, during which time a new church building was erected, the property costing \$200,000. He was president of the Indiana State Convention for five years and also took a leading part in establishing a Baptist Orphanage in that State.

Dr. Villers has been pastor in Newark for six years. He is now a member of the Board of Managers of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, and is chairman of the Missionary Committee. He is a trustee of the Rochester Theological Seminary and of the Peddie Institute for Boys. He is also a member of the State Board of the New Jersey Baptist Convention, and at present is serving as chairman of the Evangelistic Committee in the Men and Religious Forward Movement for Newark and vicinity. Dr. Villers has travelled extensively in Europe and the Orient.

The First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church, of which he is now the pastor, is more than a century old, it having been organized in 1803. The church now has a membership of nearly twelve hundred. Within the year just closed 112 new members were received.

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VICTIM OF \$3,700 SWindle IS MISSING

Boston Man Falls to Appear at Hearing of Two Arrested in "Wire Tapping" Case.

Frank B. Roberts, dealer in race horses, of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Rose Broderick, fifty-five years old, a widow, of No. 250 West Fifty-second street, were arraigned in the West Side Court before Magistrate Herbert yesterday and held in \$4,000 bail each for further examination to-day. George H. Wing, of Boston, who had made the complaint, failed to appear in court and it was said he had left the Hotel Astor and returned to Boston.

Policeman Dondero said he had arrested Roberts after an altercation between the prisoner and Wing, who told the police that he had been swindled out of \$3,700 on a "fake wire tapping game."

Detective McGee said he had gone to the address given by Wing as the house he had been in when the supposed "wire tapping" occurred and found several dummy telephones. Mrs. Broderick was arrested at this house.

Roberts and Mrs. Broderick protested their innocence.

"Chance" Is the Name of Joseph Conrad's Latest Novel, Written Especially for the SUNDAY NEW YORK HERALD.

It is a story that all women will like. First chapters next Sunday.

Police Fear Assassination.

The cases of the sixty-six Chinese arrested in a raid on alleged gambling houses in Doyers, Pell and Mott streets Tuesday night last were called by Magistrate Harris in the Tombs Police Court yesterday. The hearings will be held next week. The police have locked up their principal witness, who is the Chinese that wore a mask in leading the police. They said he might be killed if at liberty.

SHIPPING NEWS.

OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATES OF DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK.

For hours of departure of steamers and further particulars see advertisements on page 8, fifth section.

Steamer	Leaves	Destination	Office
Zealand	Jan 17	Dover-Antwerp	9 Broadway
Argentina	Jan 17	Naples-Rome	24 State St.
Bretagne	Jan 17	London	9 Broadway
Britannia	Jan 17	London	9 Broadway
Oceanic	Jan 20	Naples-Genoa	24 State St.
Columbia	Jan 20	London	9 Broadway
Scandinavia	Jan 20	London	9 Broadway
France	Jan 20	Naples-Rome	24 State St.
Prinzess Alice	Jan 20	London	9 Broadway
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